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Monday, December 25, 1950
Tel. 15, 5711, Haharashim 15, 1378

POLITICAL estrangements may interrupt but cannot destroy the economics of geography, and in time trade will again flow across middle eastern frontiers. It is, however, to the West that Israel commerce and communications look, and it is predominantly by the searoutes of the Mediterranean or its sky-ways that our visitors and our wares will travel. Already the traffic through our ports is greater than their present facilities can safely digest.

Haifa indeed is to all intents the sole ranking harbour, and even there it will take a great deal more than extra cranes and an extra quay to handle satisfactorily the quantity of goods which our economy requires. Tel Aviv and Jaffa carry a little of the load and may give further relief if the two anchorages are replaced by a sizeable deep-water basin midway between Andromeda and the Yarkon: there was detailed and confident talk a year ago of a IL20 million project. The Minister of Communications has spoken, whether additionally or alternatively is not clear, of a deep-water port in the South. He might have mentioned as well the possible use of the derelict wharf at Acre, and the surer likelihood of development at Elath which may to a large extent deflect the caravans of the Orient from our Mediterranean sea-board.

But, Elath apart, these visions, even if realized in permanence, offer only limited palliatives, and the heaviest burden must fall on Haifa. The Ministry predicts up to 1953 an annual increase of tonnage by a quarter of a million. It is to be hoped that it is not the intention to let things be until the vast necessary enlargement of Haifa, and the ancillary measures elsewhere, have been planned and carried out. A lot will have to be done in the meantime to render Haifa itself capable of doing more and better as it is. Conditions cannot be allowed to persist in which loading and off-loading of lorries involves so large a waste of manpower in interminable queuing: coordination between Railways and Port authority, although under the same ministry, is sketchy; and mechanical aids bought with borrowed dollars are too often proved unsuitable or are exploited with less than commensurate profit. There should be no excuse for vessels preferring to take on cargo for any other Mediterranean port of call rather than be kept under costly demurrage in the roadstead or alongside the congested docks of Haifa. The State Comptroller's report to the Knesset, which is still secret, is said to have a highly critical chapter on Haifa Port. It might be a good start toward the much-needed reform if the facts in that report were published.

NATIONALISTS KEEP REPUBLIC IN SIGHT Dynamic Policy Secures Malan

By Patrick O'Donovan

THE Nationalists in South Africa appear to be as firmly in power today as any elected group well could be. In any consideration of Commonwealth relations, or of the defence of the continent of Africa, it seems that it is with this Party that Britain must deal—at least for the next ten years. But that does not mean that she shall have to deal with quite the same men or the same ideas.

The political future here would appear certain, except for the fact that the parties in South Africa—particularly the Afrikaans parties—are volatile stuff. No electoral upset is at present likely, but what could happen is a continuation of that process of Balkanization which has made it necessary to understand the history of each party before it is possible to understand why it exists and what for.

At present it would seem that Dr. Malan, sobered by office, is behaving like a Statesman. Since the recent Nationalist Party Conference at Durban he has been conducting a campaign to convince the English-speaking South Africans that they have nothing to fear from his party or his principles. And if he has made few converts he has at least reduced a little the intolerable tensions of this country.

The Main Question
In addition he has committed South Africa to action on behalf of the United Nations and is ready to enter into an alliance of the African continent. In all this he has so far been supported by the extreme wing of his party, even by the Minister for Lands, Mr. J.O. Strydom, who is likely to succeed him as Prime Minister, and who represents the sort of element which is always ready to split off and form a purer and harsher party.

The Nationalist Party holds the initiative in South Africa for the foreseeable future, yet it was elected by a minority of the total votes. The Nationalists polled one hundred thousand fewer votes than Smuts' United Party. But their strength lies in the rural constituencies which have smaller electorates than the towns and, in fact, with his huge urban majorities Smuts merely won too few seats with too many votes. It is hard to see how the United Party can make the necessary converts. Their essential weakness lies in the fact that they have nothing to set against the dynamic Nationalist approach to the Native question. The question of continued White supremacy at any cost is far beyond argument. No party could put forward an even mildly liberal alternative and hope to survive at the polls. On this question

the United Party can only give a faint "Me too."

Future of United Party

They will not disappear because they have a massive support from the English-speaking section of the population and those Afrikaans who fear the implications of the extreme nationalism of their countrymen; they are also supported by the Rand industrialists who oppose strict apartheid because it might interfere with the flow of cheap Native labour to the mines and who view with suspicion the national socialist economics of the present Government, which allow not for nationalization (though nationalism of mines has been suggested) but for a Central Economic Council to supervise private industry and, perhaps, for State-appointed directors on the larger boards.

Despite their more sober behaviour there is no sign that the Nationalist Party have abandoned their final aims. Compromise for these people has never been a solution, but only a tactical pause. They will draw their strength from the underprivileged Afrikaans population that controls no more than eleven per cent of the nation's trade; that has no racial memories of any mother country except South Africa—and that still supports and despises the soft outside world as a country preacher with a private vision of God might hate the bright lights of some city over the hill.

Republic Still the Goal
Dr. Malan is not at present pressing for a Republic. It looks as if he is waiting and committing his party to waiting, until he has so consolidated his voting strength that there is no chance of the electoral sea-saw giving the Opposition a chance to repeat.

He is still the man who in 1941 said "Our Republic shall not be like the state we have at the moment where the liberalistic British Parliamentary system obtains."

The minor parties at this juncture are of declining importance. Malan has his clear majority. The Labour Party exists solely for the courtesy of the United Party. The Afrikaans Party is a typical South African curiosity. Its leader, Mr. Havenga, is a distinguished Republican with a respect for the constitution, who disagreed with Dr. Malan and so, with General Hertzog left the Nationalists. He is supported by the Ossewa Brandwag (Ox Wagon sentinels) who are the most woolly and fanatical Republicans and who also quarrelled with the Nationalists during the war. Until various South African missions have completed their

tasks abroad and agitation in the United Nations has been quietened, it is unlikely that there will be any changes in the constitution. But they are still intended; they have merely been postponed. If the Nationalists do not split, if they do not upset themselves by obvious blunders, and if at the last moment they are not compelled to relax by the necessity of placating for economic reasons foreign and particularly British opinion, there is every chance that these changes will be made and that the Union of South Africa will become as alien to Britain as its Government can contrive.

Santa Goes Underground

VIENNA, Austria.—THERE is no Santa Claus in Hungary this year. Nor in Rumania. Santa Claus has been banned by the Communist regimes of these two countries. In the Soviet Union, too, the Father Frost has been taken over. Santa Claus has gone underground. It seems that the rulers of the People's Democracies have long suspected Santa Claus of being politically unreliable because he reminded people of times past when things were different. Santa's ruddy cheerfulness and stout figure were out of place in the new order. So he has "disappeared."

JERUSALEM ART NOTES

A Decade of Kossonogi

JOSEPH Kossonogi's works of the last decade at the Artists' House give ample proof of the often contested art can be achieved through a medium which is considered to be an unimportant one. Rather regrettably the watercolours, ranging from 1940 to 1950, are not dated in the catalogue. Still, it is not difficult to follow Kossonogi's way from his "green" pictures to his integration of "Brown and Blue" and finally to a rich and weightless colour scale.

Kossonogi's water colours show a complete mastery of technique. To find his early series of lovely "Girls" rather boring is more or less a matter of taste. The artist, obviously, thought so himself, because he changed theme and approach so completely. His sombre and subdued early landscapes, however, 3, or 46 and 50, for example, evoked the grateful appreciation of the fact that Kossonogi's outlook has so completely changed to the gay and optimistic. My favourites

among his early works are the "Still Life in Blue" and the sensitive "Boats."

The "Landscape" 49 is entrancing in a Japanese manner and the Knesset has shown commendable judgment by acquiring it. "Safed 41" is an equally fine specimen of Kossonogi's "Far Eastern Period." The "Sitting Women 27" should be compared with the "green" girls in order to understand how the artist's main occupation has changed from the theme in itself to problems of pattern and division of space.

Kossonogi's latest landscapes are of that kind so rare in contemporary art, unmistakably painted in a happy mood. They impart the artist's sense of well-being to the spectator, the kind of pictures one likes in an exhibition and one learns to love on one's own walls. "Seashore 36" and "Sevens Mills 37" are successful in modifying Dufy's manner to Israel's atmosphere. The great "Acre" is a master piece and "Acre B" is really good. The "Safed Lanes" are a pleasure to study in detail. Even if the theme lends itself, Kossonogi cannot find the way back to his old melancholy. Most of Kossonogi's recent landscapes could serve as accomplished designs for frescoes, and it would be most advisable for the architects of our new public buildings to use Kossonogi's brush to grace some of their walls.

The "Permanent Exhibition of Jerusalem Artists" at the Artists' House has been reopened with entirely new pictures. Most of the contributing artists have understood the importance of this exhibition, which gives our visitors a general idea of Jerusalem's artistic life. Th. F. M.

Readers' Letters

PRIME MINISTER'S HOLIDAY

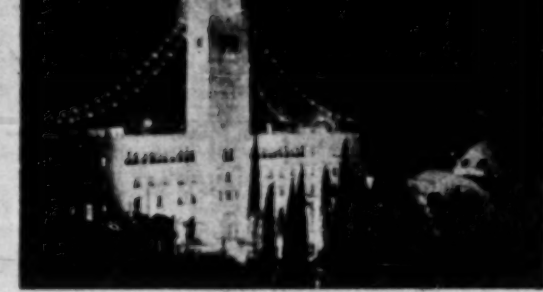
To the Editor of THE POST.—One could wish that the POST leader had been a bit less cautious in its Welcome Home to the Prime Minister. I for one thoroughly enjoyed the P.M.'s holiday abroad, and found it the most engaging, original, healthful, and constructive event of the month in the field of foreign affairs. Indeed, the P.M. set a precedent which if followed by other prime ministers might have a most beneficial effect on international relations.

The P.M. did what he wanted to do with his holiday, what he has wanted to do all his life. He has seen the Acropolis, he has walked in the paths of Pericles, whom he reveres, and in the ways of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, whom he admires; he has traversed in reality the terrain of the Peloponnesian Wars which before he had known only in books. He no longer needs to yearn to browse in the bookshops of Oxford: he has browsed, and we hope, bought a book or two. He is now a man who has fulfilled at least a few of his heart's best desires, and insofar as he has done so, is clearly a better man and a better P.M.

How often other responsible leaders of our time must have thought: If I could only get away from all this, and do thus and so. Prime Minister Nehru wrote in his autobiography of his long and deep desire to climb a certain mountain in Kashmir, but after thirty years, has not climbed it yet. Who knows but that if he had, India's history, and Kashmir's, might not have been different.

Israel's P.M. not only did what he wanted, but did it in one of the shakiest months in current history. One of Israel's close neighbours, apparently inspired by an erroneous interpretation of invasion and counter-invasion abroad, chose the time of the P.M.'s absence to set a road block on Israel territory. Did the P.M. abandon his historic ancient-Greek holiday to come flying back home to man and thereby magnify the incident? He did not. He went right on studying the lessons of ancient Greece, India, and Israel.

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The Y.M.C.A. in Jerusalem illuminated for the Christmas festivities. Photo by Braun

(OFNS)

Technion's First Director Returns

By Anita Engle

WHEN Mr. Arthur Blok, faced with a newly-won State O.B.E., launched the Haifa Technical Institute on its career as the first source of technical higher education in Palestine, the student body consisted of 24 young men and a girl. The only subject taught was "building construction."

Returning after 25 years, Mr. Blok finds the Technion a firmly entrenched organization, with some 900 students, and ramifications in practically every sphere of development taking place in Israel today.

"I feel like Alice in Wonderland," Mr. Blok said, when interviewed during the course of his three-week visit to Israel as the guest of the Technion. For some years Technion's Adviser of the British Government, Mr. Blok is also a well-known conchologist, and his considerable collection and library, now in Brighton, are designated for the Natural History Department of the Hebrew University.

Mr. Blok came to this country in 1924 on a year's leave from his work as a senior civil servant in the Patent Office, London. The Technion at that time had no staff, no students, and practically no equipment assembled. Only the main building was in existence, together with one of the workshops. The Turks had used them, as their headquarters during the World War which had delayed the Technion's opening.

"All the hopes we so timorously launched have not merely been realized, but realized to a totally unexpected degree and amplitude," he said. "The Institute is a most powerful factor in the whole future of Israel, economically and industrially, and, in the sense that architecture is part of culture, culturally as well."

"Of highest importance in a new country is the setting and maintaining of standards in large-scale construction." The development which has taken place in the student body since his day is another source of astonishment and gratification to Mr. Blok. Thousands of graduates have emerged from the Technion since its foundation. They form the backbone of Israel's technological manpower today.

The student of today he finds quite a different product from the students who came in his day. Newly escaped from the Russian revolution, or from Central European persecution they were nervous, undisciplined, uncertain of their status. The present-day students are, by contrast, solid, mature, earnest. Most of them fought in the Jewish War of Independence. Some served in the British Army as well. All are

practical of opinion regarding the standard of education which the Technion should provide. The Committee in Palestine, consisting of visionaries like Ussishkin, Ruppin, Magnus, and Shmaryahu Levin, wanted to turn out graduated engineers from the beginning. Mr. Blok felt that the immediate need was for trained artisans, in a country which possessed only one really qualified plumber, for instance, in the whole of the north, and where techniques in building were completely unknown.

English Approach
Mr. Blok, with his solid, practical English approach, was just the right man for that particular period of the country's development. When the first need had been filled, to some extent more scope was offered for those desiring higher technological training. The emphasis on higher technical education has been well-timed," Mr. Blok pointed out. Just when the period of mass immigration arrived, thanks to the Technion, the country had a reservoir of skilled and trained people to cope with the practical aspects of their absorption."

Mr. Blok's first classes at the Technion were evening classes for artisans—smiths, plumbers, builders, stone-cutters and carpenters. Later came classes for electricians, telegraphers and telephoneists. These latter were trained chiefly for the Palestine Department of Posts and Telegraphs. The day school began a little later, with a three-year course in building instruction and allied techniques. Mr. Blok spoke of his privilege in participating, twice in his life-time, in events which have changed the course of world history. He referred to his association with Sir Ambrose Fleming and Marconi during their work on radio communications, and to his activities in connection with atomic energy during World War II.

"I am convinced," he told the students, "that in rebuilding Israel, you too are engaged in events which will profoundly influence world affairs."

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THE JERUSALEM POST IS READ MOST BY PEOPLE INTERESTED IN ISRAEL.

"OUR daughter, who is 14," writes a correspondent, "came home from school in an indignant mood the other day, after a history lesson describing the expulsion of the Jews from Spain. My husband asked who had been responsible for the decree. 'Just a minute,' she said, 'what's his name, that funny man in the Jerusalem Post? Oh I know, Ferdinand!—well, that's it, it was Ferdinand and Isabella!'"



This week's contributors are G. Orner and N. Mindel, Jerusalem, and J. Ewitt, Tel Aviv.